ILLINOIS

MEMORIAL DAY — 1902

STATE OF ILLINOIS

MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 30, 1902

"The world can never forget what they did here."—*Lincoln.*

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CIRCULAR NO. 44.

Memorial Day, 1902.

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
SPRINGFIELD, May 1, 1902.

To the Teachers of Illinois:

It is my duty to remind you of the approaching Memorial day, and again enjoin its observance by the common schools. It is a matter of just pride that no exhortation to this duty is needed by the teachers of Illinois. The common school stands by the flag, and is ready at all times to join with those who would honor its defenders.

No set program is suggested. Whenever practicable, of course, the usual invitation will be extended to a member of the Grand Army of the Republic to talk to the children for a few minutes, especially if one is known who will relate to them some incident of the war which was part of his own personal experience. The material appended may be of use to those who do not have ready access to libraries, or who may have been too busy to use them for this purpose. The general thought of the quotations is the same as that of last year,—the character and spirit of the American volunteer soldier. Most of them are suggested by the lines:

"In the record of thy years
ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S name appears;
GRANT, and LOGAN—and our tears,
Illinois!"

The recorded words of these three great men are part of the history of the country which it is our paramount duty to teach the children now in the common schools to love, and train them to serve with honor. Their testimony to the qualities of our soldiery will stand forever.

The Union army was the grandest body of men ever organized for war. This was not alone because they were brave, conscientious and self-sacrificing. The day has come when we can concede as much as that to their opponents. The Union army was

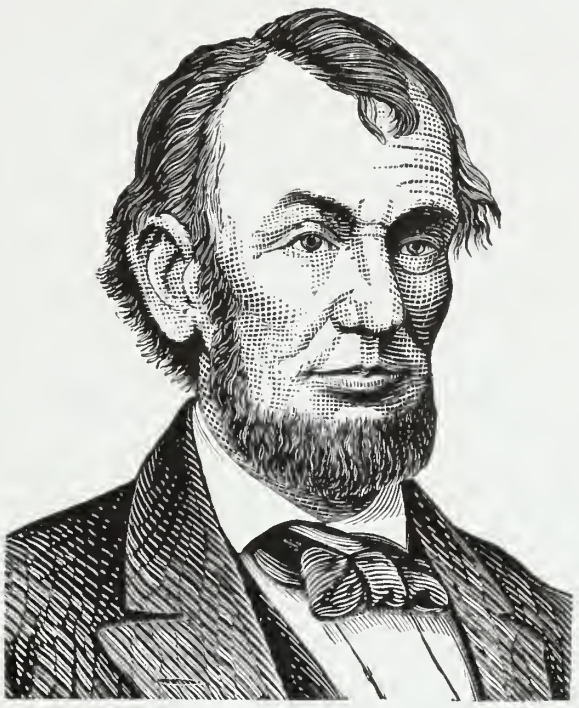
the "Grand" army, because, as events have shown, its cause was in harmony with the purposes of the Almighty. It preserved the life of the nation.

The Memorial day program should not be a glorification of war. The bronze button, its symbol of service, is a badge of honor, but the great Field Marshal of those who wear it said: "Let us have Peace!" "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," says an eloquent Rabbi, "is a grand anthem, but grander still is the music which borrows its inspiration from happy homes, busy mills, laughing fields, stored granaries bursting with the blessings of peace and the harvest of happy freedom." The work of the Grand Army was good, *chiefly*, because it extended the area of peace, prosperity, and freedom. Wherever the American flag is planted, there it should stay because it is the emblem of a power which guarantees these blessings in greater measure than any other power in the world.

In the spirit of peace on earth, "with malice toward none; with charity for all," therefore, should the Memorial day lesson be given in the common schools.

Alfred Bayliss

Supt. of Public Instruction.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Feb. 12, 1809—April 14, 1865.

"Today he stands like a great lighthouse to show the way of duty to all his countrymen and to send afar a beam of courage to those who beat against the winds."—*Benjamin Harrison.*

WORDS OF LINCOLN.

Honor to All Patriots.

Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor also to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause—honor to him, only less than to him who braves, for the common good, the storms of heaven and the storms of battle.

The Sanitary Commissions.

The sanitary commission, with all its benevolent labors; the christian commission, with all its Christian and benevolent; and the various places, arrangements, so to speak, and institutions, have contributed to the comfort and relief of the soldiers. You have two of these places in this city—the Cooper shop and the Union Volunteer Refreshment saloons. And lastly, these fairs which, I believe, began only last August, if I mistake not, in Chicago, then at Boston, at Cincinnati, Brooklyn, New York and Baltimore, and those at present held at St. Louis, Pittsburg and Philadelphia. The motive and object that lie at the bottom of all these are most worthy: for, say what you will, after all, the most is due to the soldier who takes his life in his hands and goes to fight the battles of his country. In what is contributed to his comfort as he passes to and fro, and in what is contributed to him when he is sick and wounded, in whatever shape it comes, whether from the fair and tender hand of woman, or from any other source, it is much, very much. But I think there is still that which is of as much value to him in the continual reminders he sees in the newspapers that while he is absent he is yet remembered by the loved ones at home. Another view of these various institutions, if I may so call them, is worthy of consideration, I think. They are voluntary contributions, given zealously and earnestly, on top of all the disturbances of business, of all the disorders, of all the taxation, of all the burdens that war has imposed upon us, giving proof that the national resources are not at all exhausted, and that the national spirit of patriotism is even firmer and stronger than at the commencement of the war.

The American Soldier.

With us every soldier is a man of character, and must be treated with more consideration than is customary in Europe. Hence our great army, for slighter causes than could have prevailed there, has dwindled rapidly, bringing the necessity for a new call earlier than was anticipated. We shall easily obtain the new levy, however. Be not alarmed if you shall learn that we shall have resorted to a draft for part of this. It seems strange, even to me, but it is true, that the government is now pressed to this course by a popular demand. Thousands who wish not to personally enter the service are, nevertheless, anxious to pay and send substitutes, provided they can have assurances that unwilling persons, similarly situated, will be compelled to do likewise. Besides this, volunteers mostly choose to enter newly forming regiments, while drafted men can be sent to fill up the old ones, wherein man for man they are quite doubly valuable.

Remarks on Closing a Sanitary Fair in Washington.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I appear to say but a word. This extraordinary war in which we are engaged falls heavily upon all classes of people, but the most heavily upon the soldier. For it has been said all that a man hath will he give for his life; and while all contribute of their substance, the soldier puts his life at stake, and often yields it up in his country's cause. The highest merit, then, is due to the soldier.

In this extraordinary war, extraordinary developments have manifested themselves, such as have not been seen in former wars; and amongst these manifestations nothing has been more remarkable than these fairs for the relief of suffering soldiers and their families. And the chief agents in these fairs are the women of America.

I am not accustomed to the use of language of eulogy; I never studied the art of paying compliments to women; but I must say, that if all that has been said by orators and poets since the creation of the world in praise of women were applied to the women of America, it would not do them justice for their conduct during the war. I will close by saying God bless the women of America.

When Other Things are Equal.

WASHINGTON, July 24, 1863.

Honorable Postmaster General:

SIR:—Yesterday little indorsements of mine went to you in two cases of postmasterships sought for widows whose husbands have fallen in the battles of this war. These cases occurring on the same day brought me to reflect more attentively than I had before done as to what is fairly due from us here in the dispensing of patronage toward the men who by fighting our battles, bear the chief burden of saving our country. My conclusion is that, other claims and qualifications being equal, they have the better right; and this is especially applicable to the disabled soldier and the deceased soldier's family.

Your obedient servant,

A. LINCOLN.

No Appeal from Ballot to Bullet.

The signs look better. The Father of Waters again goes unvexed to the sea. Thanks to the great northwest for it. Nor yet wholly to them. Three hundred miles up they met New England, Empire, Keystone and Jersey hewing their way right and left. The sunny south, too, in more colors than one, also lent a hand. On the spot, their part of the history was jotted down in black and white. The job was a great national one, and let none be banned who bore an honorable part in it. And while those who have cleared the great river may well be proud, even that is not all. It is hard to say that anything has been more bravely and well done than at Antietam, Murfreesboro, Gettysburg, and on many fields of lesser note. Nor must Uncle Sam's web-feet be forgotten. At all the watery margins they have been present. Not only on the deep sea, the broad bay and the rapid river, but also up the narrow, muddy bayou, and wherever the ground was a little damp, they have been and made their tracks. Thanks to all: for the great republic—for the principle it lives by and keeps alive—for man's vast future—thanks to all.

Peace does not appear so distant as it did. I hope it will come soon, and come to stay, and so come as to be worth the keeping in all future time. It will then have proved that among free men there can be no successful appeal from the ballot to the bullet, and that they who take such appeal are sure to lose their case and pay the cost. And then there will be some black men who can remember that with silent tongue and clenched teeth, and steady eye, and well-poised bayonet, they have helped mankind on to this great consummation, while I fear there will be some white ones unable to forget that with malignant heart and deceitful speech they strove to hinder it.

A Missive to Mother of Five Sons Slain in Battle.

NEW YORK, March 5.—Soiled and faded, torn and frayed, a letter written by Abraham Lincoln a few months before his assassination has been found in some rubbish and papers on Broadway, New York city, near the postoffice. It reads as follows:

"EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Nov. 21, 1864.

To Mrs. Bixby. Boston, Mass.:

"I have been shown in the file of the war department a statement to the adjutant general of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I can not refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave only the cherished memory of loved and lost and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Yours very sincerely and respectfully,

A. LINCOLN."

ULYSSES S. GRANT.

April 27, 1822—August 8, 1885.

"There was in his face, manner, and aspect ever something which invited the humble and timid, especially women and children, to give him their confidence—a confidence which was never in all his life misused or betrayed. To extend mercy, to help the unfortunate, was as marked a characteristic in him as it was in President Lincoln."—*Richard S. Tuthill.*

WORDS OF GRANT.

The Twenty-first Infantry.

My regiment was composed in large part of young men of as good social position as any in their section of the State. It embraced the sons of farmers, lawyers, physicians, politicians, merchants, bankers and ministers, and some men of maturer years who had filled positions themselves. There were also men in it who could be led astray; and the colonel, elected by the votes of the regiment, had proved to be fully capable of developing all there was in his men of recklessness. It was said that he even went so far at times as to take the guard from their posts and go with them to the village near by and make a night of it. When there came a prospect of battle the regiment wanted to have some one else to lead them. I found it very hard work for a few days to bring all the men into anything like subordination; but the great majority favored discipline, and by the application of a little regular army punishment all were reduced to as good discipline as one could ask.

In Time of Peace, Prepare for War.

To maintain peace in the future it is necessary to be prepared for war. There can scarcely be a possible chance of a conflict, such as the last one, occurring among our own people again; but growing as we are, in population, wealth and military power, we may become the envy of nations which led us in all these particulars only a few years ago; and unless we are prepared for it we may be in danger of a combined movement being some day made to crush us out. Now, scarcely 20 years after the war, we seem to have forgotten the lessons it taught, and are going on as if in the greatest security, without the power to resist an invasion by the fleets of fourth-rate European powers for a time, until we could prepare for them.

We should have a good navy and our sea coast defences should be put in the finest possible condition. Neither of these cost much when it is considered where the money goes, and what we get in return. Money expended in a fine navy not only adds to our security and tends to prevent war in the future, but is very material aid to our commerce with foreign nations in the meantime. Money spent upon sea coast defenses is spent among our own people, and all goes back again among the people. The work accomplished, too, like that of the navy, gives us a feeling of security.

The Quality of Our Soldiers.

The armies of Europe are machines; the men are brave and the officers capable; but the majority of the soldiers in most of the nations of Europe are taken from a class of people who are not very intelligent and who have very little interest in the contest in which they are called upon to take part. Our armies were composed of men who were able to read, men who knew what they were fighting for, and could not be induced to serve as soldiers, except in an emergency when the safety of the nation was involved, and so necessarily must have been more than equal to men who fought merely because they were brave and because they were thoroughly drilled and inured to hardships.

The Grand Review.

Promptly at 10:00 o'clock on the morning of the 24th, his troops commenced to pass in review. Sherman's army made a different appearance from that of the Army of the Potomac. The latter had been operating where they received directly from the north full supplies of food and clothing regularly; the review of this army therefore was the review of 65,000 well drilled, well disciplined and orderly soldiers inured to hardship and fit for any duty, but without the experience of gathering their own food and supplies in an enemy's country, and of being ever on the watch. Sherman's army was not so well dressed as the Army of the Potomac, but their marching could not be excelled; they had the appearance of men who had been thoroughly drilled to endure hardships, either by long and continuous marches or through exposure to any climate, without the ordinary shelter of a camp. They exhibited also some of the order of march through Georgia where the "sweet potatoes spring up from the ground" as Sherman's army went marching through. In the rear of a company there would be a captured horse or mule loaded with small cooking utensils, captured chickens and other food picked up for the use of the men. Negro families who had followed the army would sometimes come along in the rear of the company, with three or four children packed upon a single mule, and the mother leading it.

The sight was varied and grand; nearly all the day for two successive days, from the Capitol to the Treasury building, could be seen a mass of orderly soldiers marching in columns of companies. The national flag was flying from almost every house and store; the windows were filled with spectators; the doorsteps and sidewalks were crowded with colored people and poor whites who did not succeed in securing better quarters from which to get a view of the grand armies. The city was about as full of strangers who had come to see the sights as it usually is on inauguration day when the new president takes his seat.

Generous Praise for All Soldiers.

It has been my fortune to see the armies of both the west and east fight battles, and from what I have seen I know there is no difference in their fighting qualities. All that it was possible for men to do in battle they have done. The western armies commenced their battles in the Mississippi valley, and received the final surrender of the remnant of the principal army opposed to them in North Carolina. The armies of the east commenced their battles on the river from which the army of the Potomac derived its name, and received its final surrender of their old antagonists at Appomattox Court House, Va. The splendid achievements of each have nationalized our victories, removed all sectional jealousies (of which we have unfortunately experienced too much), and the cause of crimination and recrimination that might have followed had either section failed in its duty. All have a proud record, and all sections can well congratulate themselves and each other for having done their full share in restoring the supremacy of law over every foot of territory belonging to the United States. Let them hope for perpetual peace and harmony with that enemy, whose manhood, however mistaken the cause drew forth such herculean deeds of valor.

How to Use the Regulars in a Great War.

They had from 30 to 40 per cent of the educated soldiers of the nation. They had no standing army, and, consequently, these trained soldiars had to find employment with the troops from their own states. In this way what there was of military education and training was distributed throughout their whole army. The whole loaf was leavened.

The north has a greater number of educated and trained soldiers, but the bulk of them were still in the army and were retained, generally with their old commands and ranks, until the war had lasted many months. In the army of the Potomac there was what was known as the "regular brigade," in which, from the commanding officer down to the youngest second lieutenant, every one was educated to his profession. So, too, with many of the batteries; all the officers, generally four in number to each, were men educated for their profession. Some of these went into battle at the beginning under division commanders who were entirely without military training. The state of affairs gave me an idea which I expressed at Cairo; that the government ought to disband the regular army, with the exception of the staff corps, and notify the disbanded officers that they would receive no compensation while the war lasted except as volunteers. The register should be kept up, but the names of all officers who were not in the volunteer service at the close, should be stricken from it.

A Prophecy Fulfilled.

The war begot a spirit of independeuce and enterprise. The feeling now is, that a youth must cut loose from his old surroundings to enable him to get up in the world. There is now such a commingling of the people that particular idioms and pronunciation are no longer localized to any great extent; the country has filled up "from the centre all around to the sea," railroads connect the two oceans and all parts of the interior; maps, nearly perfect, of every part of the country are now furnished the student of geography.

The war has made us a nation of great power and intelligence. We have but little to do to preserve peace, happiness and prosperity at home, and the respect of other nations. Our experience ought to teach us the necessity of the first, our power secures the latter.

I feel that we are on the eve of a new era, when there is to be great harmony between the Federal and Confederate. I cannot stay to be a living witness to the correctness of this prophecy; but I feel it within me that it is to be so. The universally kind feeling expressed for me at a time when it was supposed that each day would prove my last, seemed to me the beginning of the answer to "Let us have peace."

JOHN ALEXANDER LOGAN.

Feb. 9, 1826—Dec. 26, 1886.

"His district, which had promised at first to give much trouble to the government, filled every call made upon it for troops without resorting to the draft. There was no call made when there were not more volunteers than were asked for. That congressional district stands credited at the war department today with furnishing more men for the army than it was called upon to supply. * * * Logan's popularity in this district was unbounded. He knew almost enough of the people by their Christian names to form an ordinary congressional district. As he went in politics so his district was sure to go."—*U. S. Grant.*

WORDS OF LOGAN.

The Citizen Soldier.

The American volunteer, so far as mere physical strength, strong endurance, and iron courage are concerned, may not be a better "Greek" than he who fought the battles of Sparta and Athens 25 centuries ago, but there are circumstances connected with the modern American that have made him the most invincible of soldiers. What are these circumstances? They belong strictly to his Americanism.

Briefly stated, it may be said that he is an integral part of the government and country for which he fights. He is a citizen of the freest government the world has yet seen. There is no avenue of life closed to him; no possibility denied him. From a private station he may pass to high political position. In his humblest and most obscure capacity his voice is as potent in the direction of the national affairs as is that of the richest and most prominent citizen. Today poor in purse, half a dozen years may not elapse until industry and enterprise bring him honest fortune. Whether poor or rich, the benificent laws of his country give him personal guarantees not enjoyed in any other land. However poor, or however rich, he has a personal and direct interest in the government. He belongs to it, he is part of it. He helps to make its laws, to elect its officials, to direct its affairs.

Further than this, he is a man of intelligence. Institutions and means of acquiring learning are accessible to him. Day schools are abundant for the child, and other schools for the individual of any age. Newspapers—those great educators of the whole people—are within the easy reach of all. Libraries are abundant and books are cheap. The public affairs of the country are carried before the masses and discussed by the public men. The voter of the country may be called a court of last resort. Stimulated by motives of direct interest, he has become an umpire whose judgment seldom errs.

The circumstances stated give the soldier of America a purely distinctive character. He follows the banner of no potentate as hireling, dependent, vassal or menial. He is a free man, fighting for home, family, country and the government of which he is a factor. His arm is raised for principle, for right, for justice. The immense difference between the man who is a soldier through such considerations, and him who is one by mere occupation or by force need not be dwelt upon.

The climax, however, would hardly be complete without mention of an additional circumstance pertaining to the character of the American volunteer. His whole training from childhood, whether his lot be cast in a large community or upon the frontier of the country, where he becomes a quasi soldier through force of surroundings and mode of life, has given him a character of independence, of self-reliance, of quick action and ready command of expedients. These qualities imply wonderful fitness for the soldier. Brave by an inheritance from hardy forefathers, vigorous through the training of American life, with intellect developed by education, the American soldier surely stands without a rival.

Military Education in the Public Schools.

In addition to this portion of the general scheme the several states should remodel their public schools so as to include as a part of the education given by them, the daily practice of gymnastics and the regular drill of the infantry soldier, under competent teachers. By wise action in this direction, and with but little extra expense, every youth of the country could be instructed in the elementary training of the soldier. Further than this, by more attention to general hygiene and physical development of the pupil, through athletic exercise, the body would expand in power with the mind of the boy, and, as a result, while we should rear intellectual men, we should also rear a nation of strong, healthy, powerful citizens. The world progresses undoubtedly. It does move, as Galileo said, and in more directions than one, but in the matter now being considered we could well go back 2,500 years and adopt the manual training, the physical development system of the iron men of ancient Greece, who ruled their puny contemporaries by virtue of strong arms and strong bodies, and the fire of whose intellectual power has shone resplendently through all the growing centuries. In the direction of reform as now indicated, there is an immense field for the American statesmen of today. The author knows no more certain road to fame in the annals of history than successful work in the channel now pointed out.

In addition to the action by states in the matter of physical and military training, as just dwelt upon, each state should extend and improve its militia system, and encourage young men, by favoring legislation, to become attached to the militia service.

Soldiers Fight the Battles.

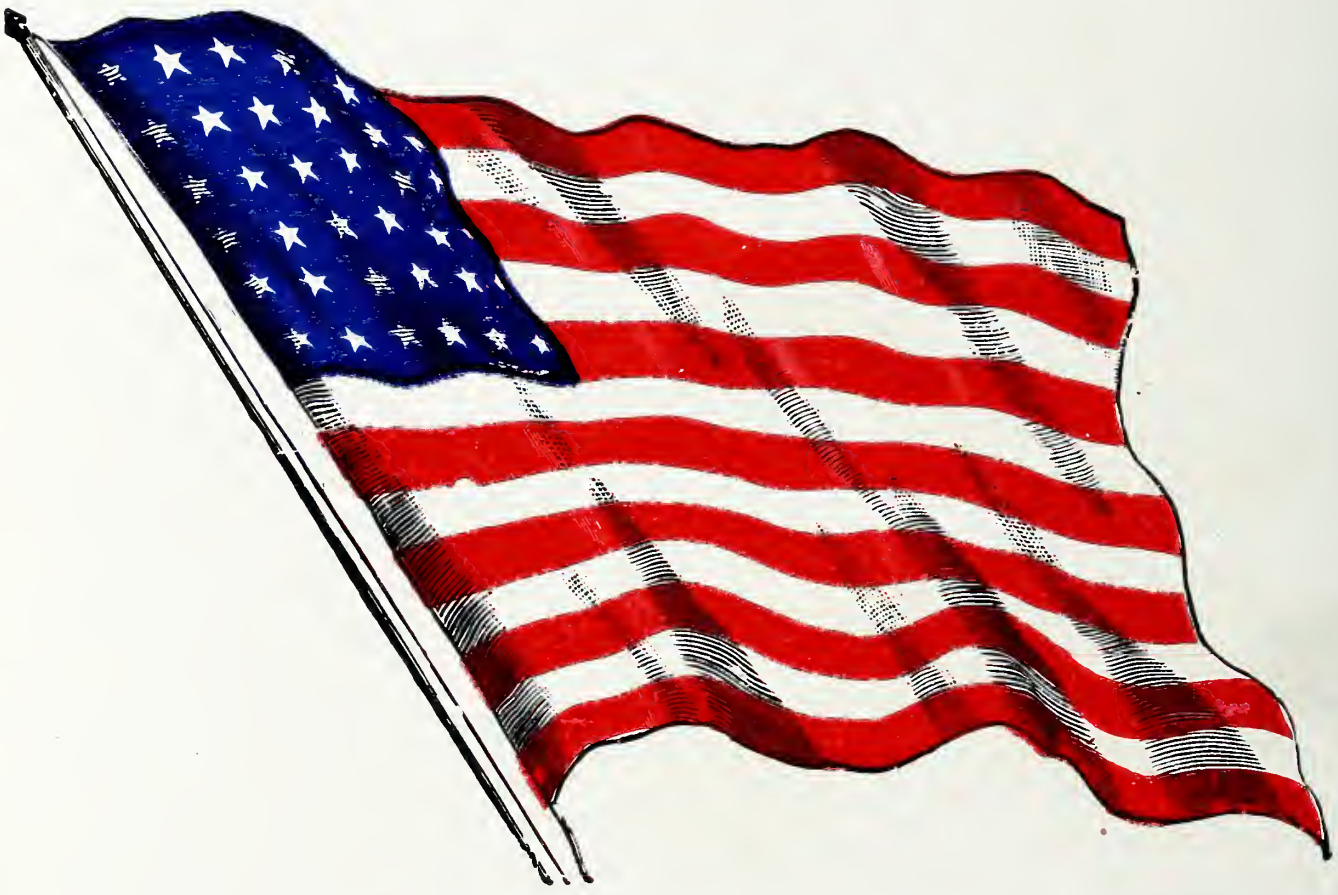
The author would not detract in the most infinitesimal degree from the already recorded tributes to the patriotism, the bravery and the rare military qualities of the conspicuous leaders of the late war. He would rather add additional tribute of his own to the merited eulogiums upon those whose recent deeds have become an imperishable part of the history of their country. He would be generous, and he would likewise be just. But no record of the war would be wholly just that failed to portray the unique character of the American citizen soldier, and no deduction from the lessons of the conflict can cover the ultimate logic of the case that does not consider as one of the premises this character of the soldier as it bears upon the future of this country. Official leadership is a prime factor in the issue of battles, but much of the interest of the engagement clusters around the common soldier, as well as about the officer. No estimate of battle results can be considered wholly safe that fails to include both officers and men. Indeed, it may be broadly alleged that there has been no battle fought since the beginning of human contention, where the common soldier did not largely outnumber the officers, not alone in the ranks of the contestants, but also, in the lists of the killed and wounded. Had it been ordered otherwise from the beginning, the study of the rise and fall of nations would have been greatly simplified to the modern student.

Soldiers, then, have fought the battles of the world. The officers have directed them.

Within the rank and file of the Union army all classes of men were largely represented. The artisan, the farmer, the laborer, the clerk, the lawyer, the doctor, the student, the man of letters, the man of wealth. as well as the man without means—all of these voluntarily left families and friends, and many of them comfortable homes and more or less remunerative occupations, to suffer the hard fare of a common soldier's life. The case of the inventor of the sewing machine, who, though possessing a large private fortune, became a soldier in the ranks upon the pay of $22 per month, must be well remembered.

Old Glory

The flag is the emblem of a supreme will—of a nation's power. Beneath its folds the weakest must be protected and the strongest must obey. It shields and canopies alike the loftiest mansion and the rudest hut. The flag was given to the air in the Revolution's darkest days. It represents the sufferings of the past, the glories yet to be, and like the banner of Heaven, it is the child of storm and sun.



"On what rests the hope of the Republic?
One country and one Flag.

How may that country be preserved, and that flag be kept unsullied?
By eternal vigilance, which is the price of liberty."